

RAB Member Profile:

James Webb Keeps Watch On Our Water

James Webb has been a valued member the Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) since it was first formed.

As Manager of the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory at Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) for over 34 years, Mr. Webb knows all about Memphis' drinking water. Recently, he finished work on MLGW's Water Quality Report that was distributed to every MLGW customer.

Mr. Webb keeps a watchful eye on the local drinking water, which comes from deep groundwater aquifers throughout the Memphis area. Mr. Webb and his team in the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory at MLGW analyze samples of water from these wells, looking for traces

of any substances that might pose a potential concern. "To date, we have not found any contaminants from the Depot," said Mr. Webb.

While Memphis water is safe to drink and not affected by substances found in the shallow aquifer, Mr. Webb wants to ensure it stays that way. "I would like for the Depot area community to make sure that the shallow groundwater is cleaned up before the environmental cleanup program completely ends at the Memphis Depot," said Mr. Webb.

He is confident that MLGW can safely and effectively remove small amounts of substances that may enter the drinking water wells, so customers will continue to receive the same high quality of water they



RAB member James Webb

have come to expect from MLGW.

A proud father of two grown children, Mr. Webb looks forward to retiring sometime within the next year and enjoying time with his wife. □



Proposed Plan for The Memphis Depot Main Installation

Public Comment Period
Aug. 1 to Aug. 31, 2000

Public Comment Meeting
Aug. 17, 2000 - 6:00 p.m.
Watch for ads in your local
paper, or call for more
information:

(901) 544-0613

Main Installation Passes Safety Standards for Industrial Use

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These locations are being evaluated for possible future cleanup. Homes could be built on all other areas of this functional unit, although current land-use zoning is for light industrial only.

Functional Unit 5-Newer Warehouses

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. Because of PAH levels at locations near the railroad tracks and roadways, homes cannot be built on this part of the Depot.

Functional Unit 6-Administrative and Residential Area

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. It is safe for people to live in the housing area of this functional unit. Because of PAH levels, homes cannot be built on the parking lots, railroad tracks and maintenance shop area of this functional unit.

Functional Unit 7-Groundwater under the Main Installation

Groundwater samples from the shallow fluvial aquifer under the Main Installation found chlorinated solvents like those used for dry

cleaning or degreasing machine parts. This groundwater is not used for drinking water and is not affecting the city's drinking water system.

The Fate and Transport section of the RI report concluded that any substances moving off the Depot property in surface water, sediments and soil were within acceptable standards for human health. □

What are PAHs?

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are compounds common to most urban areas. They are formed during the burning of substances such as coal, oil and gas, diesel fuel, garbage or other waste products. PAHs are also present in tobacco smoke and grilled meat. Some PAHs are also used in the production of medicines, plastics and dyes. PAHs can enter the environment through automobile or airplane exhaust, asphalt paving, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar.

There are several ways that PAHs might have entered the Depot soils. Vehicle exhaust from the major roadways next to the Depot and exhaust from airplanes flying low

over the Depot would deposit PAHs onto the Depot. In the paved areas, it's likely that the PAHs came from the asphalt paving. Another likely source of PAHs in Depot soils are the railroad tracks between the warehouses. These tracks include railroad ties treated with creosote, a source of PAHs, and waste oil may have dripped from the trains traveling on the tracks. It is likely that the PAHs in gravel areas resulted from the use of waste oil to control dust and weeds. □

For more information on PAHs and health effects, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Visit ATSDR's website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html or call toll free at 1-888-422-8737.

BCT Presents Cleanup Alternatives

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The public comment period for the Main Installation Proposed Plan is scheduled for August 1, 2000 through August 31, 2000. The BCT will present the Proposed Plan and preferred alternative at a public meeting on August 17, 2000, beginning at 6 p.m., which will be held in place of the regular RAB meeting.

The public can provide comments on the Main Installation Remedial Investigation Report, the Feasibility Studies and the Proposed Plan in the following ways:

- Verbal or written comments at the August 17 public meeting;
- Verbal comments on the Environmental Information Line: 544-0618;
- Written comments to: Mr. Shawn Phillips
Memphis Depot Caretaker
Division
2163 Airways Blvd., Bldg. 144
Memphis, TN 38114-5210 □